

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 16167 01 OF 02 141218Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-04 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20 USIA-06 SCA-01 SCS-02 PPT-01

SY-04 OPR-01 VO-01 DRC-01 /077 W

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P R 141527Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5636

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 16167

LONDON PASS BRANDON GROVE, JR.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: TRAVEL POLICY IN GDR

REF: BONN 15834

1. SUMMARY: US, UK AND FRENCH REPS MET TRIPARTELY OCTOBER 10 TO REVIEW QUESTION OF WHETHER AN AGREED ALLIED POLICY ON TRAVEL IN AND THROUGH THE GDR WAS POSSIBLE, GIVEN DIFFERENCES IN VIEWS THAT HAD BECOME APPARENT IN INITIAL DRAFTING EXERCISE IN 1973. US REP PRESENTED OUTLINE OF US POSITION AS IN REFTEL. UK AND FRENCH REPS SAID, ON PRELIMINARY BASIS, THAT THEY COULD ACCEPT OUR POSITION EXCEPT THE PROPOSAL TO ALLOW EAST BERLIN BASED EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO USE ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND FRG. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 BONN 16167 01 OF 02 141218Z

2. BOTH UK AND FRENCH REPS SPOKE IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPING AN AGREED TRIPARTITE POSITION. THEY STATED THAT SUCH A UNIFIED APPROACH WOULD TEND TO PROTECT THE ALLIED POSITION IN BERLIN AND IN THE GDR FROM EROSION BY ONE OR OTHER OF THE THREE ALLIES' ADOPTING HARMFUL PRACTICES OR PROCEDURES IN THE FIELD OF TRAVEL. US REP AGREED BUT NOTED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US WHICH HAD EMERGED IN THE TRIPARTITE DISCUSSIONS IN BERLIN ON THIS SUBJECT IN 1973.

3. FRENCH REP SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE FRENCH POSITION OPPOSING TRAVEL OF WEST BERLIN-BASED PERSONNEL OF THE FRENCH MISSION IN AND THROUGH THE GDR (EXCEPT ON THE HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN AND ON THE MILITARY TRAINS) CREATED DIFFICULTIES FOR THE US AND UK. HE SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY PREPARED TO RECOMMEND TO PARIS THAT THE FRENCH POSITION IN THIS AREA ACCORD WITH THE US AND UK PLANS, I.E. TO ALLOW PERSONNEL TO TRAVEL IN AND THROUGH THE GDR FOR NON-OFFICIAL PURPOSES. HE ADDED THAT THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES WOULD IMPOSE FAIRLY STRICT SECURITY RESTRICTIONS ON SUCH TRAVEL, SO THAT THE NUMBER OF TRAVELLERS WOULD BE SMALL. IN ESSENCE, FRENCH REP SAID HE THOUGHT HE COULD ACCEPT PARA 4 A AND 4 B OF REFTEL. HE WOULD ONLY REQUIRE PARIS' AUTHORIZATION, AND HE EXPECTED TO HAVE IT THIS WEEK.

4. US REP NOTED THAT THE ONLY OTHER AREA OF DIFFICULTY BETWEEN US AND UK/FRENCH SEEMED TO FALL IN AREA OF USE OF ALLIED MILITARY TRAINS BY EAST BERLIN-BASED EMBASSY PERSONNEL. BOTH UK AND FRENCH REPS ARGUED STRONGLY THAT THE US POSITION FAVORING SUCH TRAVEL WAS A DANGEROUS ONE AND POTENTIALLY DELETERIOUS TO ALLIED POSITION ON STATUS OF WEST BERLIN MISSIONS' RIGHTS OF ACCESS. THERE WAS SIMPLY NO WAY FOR THE ALLIES TO CLAIM IN GOOD CONSCIENCE THAT THE EAST-BERLIN PER-

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PAGE 01 BONN 16167 02 OF 02 141222Z

44

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 16167

SONNEL HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE OCCUPATION OF BERLIN, AS THE TRAIN TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION WOULD HAVE TO INDICATE. UK AND FRENCH REPS THOUGHT THE EROSION OF OUR POSITION WHICH THIS US PROPOSAL ENGENDERED WAS SIMPLY NOT WORTH THE LIMITED CONVENIENCE THAT USE OF THE TRAINS BY A FEW EAST BERLIN EMBASSY PERSONNEL REPRESENTED. US REP ARGUED AGAINST BINDING OUR OWN HANDS IN THIS PRACTICAL AREA OF TRAVEL, BUT UK AND FRENCH REPS WERE ADAMANT IN STATING THAT THEIR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE WOULD NOT CHANGE. UK AND FRENCH REPS SAID THAT IF US SIDE COULD AGREE TO DROP THE TRAINS ITEM, THEN A TRIPARTITE ALLIED TRAVEL POLICY APPEARED POSSIBLE. US REP SAID HE RECOGNIZED THIS POINT AND WOULD BE REPORTING THE DISCUSSION FOR HIS AUTHORITIES' VIEWS.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS TO US THAT THERE IS VALUE IN OBTAINING A UNIFIED SET OF GUIDELINES FOR ALLIED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BONN 16167 02 OF 02 141222Z

TRAVEL IN THE GDR. IF WE HAVE TO DROP THE PROPOSAL OF HAVING OUR EAST BERLIN PERSONNEL TRAVEL ON THE MILITARY TRAINS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, THEN WE WOULD FAVOR DOING SO. THE PRACTICAL BENEFITS TO OUR EAST BERLIN PERSONNEL WOULD APPEAR TO US FAIRLY LIMITED AND NOT WORTH THE PRICE OF DIVERGENCE WITH OUR TWO BERLIN ALLIES. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO DROP THIS ELEMENT FROM OUR POSITION AND TO WORK NOW TO DRAW UP TRIPARTITELY AGREED GUIDELINES. WE WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSING THIS GENERAL QUESTION WITH BRANDON GROVE THIS WEEK.

HILLENBRAND

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